

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Darryl Scott Burkett)	
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Serial No.:	09/644,923)	Group Art Unit: 3652
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Filed:	August 23, 2000)	Examiner: T. Brahan
)	
For:	Trailer-Mounted Crane)	
	Apparatus)	

Commissioner for Patents
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DECLARATION OF DARRYL S. BURKETT

1. I have been in the landscaping and construction business for 35 years.
2. In the last 8 years I have been predominately involved in landscaping for homes and golf courses.
3. There are many situations when landscaping a home or golf course where a small, easily maneuvered crane with a long reach is greatly advantageous.
4. In many situations, a conventional crane is too large, heavy and requires such a turning radius as to render the job impractical or overly costly. This is particularly true for landscaping areas that have narrow access ways to reach a staging area, or where uneven or sensitive terrain is involved.
5. In many situations of home or golf course landscaping, sheet piling must be vibrated into place to shore up the banks of ponds. Particularly in these cases a compact crane, having a small turning radius and a long reach is highly advantageous.
6. Compounding the problems associated with landscaping can be landscaping on sensitive terrain, such as on a golf course green. The trailer crane of my invention can be maneuvered onto golf course greens and deployed without damaging the greens.

7. I have reviewed the prior art cited by the Examiner and have the following observations based on my experience:

Dunbar discloses a truck mounted hoist for unloading heavy cargo such as bricks. Such a hoist would not have the reach required for suspending a vibratory driver at a sixteen foot reach. Such a trailer disclosed in *Dunbar* would be too heavy and would damage delicate terrain.

The apparatus disclosed in the German language *Gilbers* is not as compactly arranged or as effective as the trailer crane of the present invention. *Gilbers* locates the arm weight between the rear axle and the hitch. Apparently, a large portion of the arm weight must be supported by the hitch as no provision for front support is disclosed. Furthermore, *Gilbers* utilizes a rotating operator station which requires clear space on the platform. This prevents a compact arrangement such as provided by the trailer crane of the present invention.

Birbanescu discloses a television camera crane. In some embodiments (Figures 4 and 5) the crane is mounted on a trailer. However, in both these embodiments, the center post is mounted considerably in front of the trailer axle and requires front support by the truck or by hydraulic jacks. Furthermore, this type of crane does not have an attachment for connecting a lifting line and given the fact that a person is lifted to the elevated position, such use as a lifting crane would not be suggested by this product.

Wellman describes a heavy tower crane. In each embodiment the tower is supported by multiple axles. This type of massive, multiple axle crane would not be usable on a golf course.

Cook discloses a backhoe, not a crane. There is no room on the trailer for mounting a vibratory driven power unit. Thus, the compact design of the trailer

crane of the present invention, particularly as outfitted for a vibratory driver, is not provided by this backhoe.

Citron et al., like *Birbanescu* describes a lift for personnel. The center post of the lift is not mounted over a single axle. Four outriggers are needed to provide stability. Such a lift would not be used with a lifting line to lift a vibratory driver.

Zeilman and *Johnston et al.* are large cranes, unsuitable for work on delicate areas of golf course. In both *Zeilman* and *Johnston* the crane operator station rotates with the crane arm. Neither *Zeilman* nor *Johnston et al.* would be useful in close quarters, hard-to-access areas of golf courses because of their weight and size. These heavy cranes must be supported on multiple axles.

8. The trailer-crane of my invention combines a number of features which in combination provide for a compact, lightweight, easily maneuverable crane particularly useful for home and golf course landscaping including:

a single axle configuration that permits a tight turning ratio without undue skid turning and damage to sensitive terrains;

a telescopic boom capable of a 16 foot reach, which permits compact crane storage on the trailer for road travel while producing enough reach for landscaping operations;

an operator's station that is stationary on the trailer and does not rotate with the rotatable boom, that allows for a simple, lightweight compact design and is effective in close quarters involved in home and golf course landscaping; and

a plurality of outriggers that when deployed assist the trailer in stabilizing against overturning when the telescopic boom is deployed.

9. I have demonstrated and used my trailer mounted crane to landscape 17 golf courses and have achieved success in reducing costs and decreasing project duration.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Darryl S. Burkett